

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(47) Department of State

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CORRECTION ISSUED:

8/9/61, 2 P.M.

Action

Control: 5428

EUR

Rec'd: August 8, 1961

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Info

FROM: Berlin - CORRECTED COPY

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 143, August 4, 7 p.m.

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 143, BONN PRIORITY 124, INFORMATION PARIS PRIORITY 79, LONDON 74, MOSCOW 71, POLAD USAREUR 68.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, KOHLER, STORSEL AND FINN.

Reference: Berlin's 141 Department, 121 Bonn.

According East German news agency ADN, East Berlin magistrate August 4 issued following decree affecting border-crossers.

BEGIN QUOTE

1. All citizens of capital of GDR (Democratic Berlin) who are employed in West Berlin must be registered in accordance with ordinance concerning statistical determination of employment relationships of January 14, 1953, regardless of whether they are permanently employed or perform occasional services.

2. Effective August 1, 1961 persons named in paragraph one are required to pay their rent, ground rent, utility charges for power, gas, and water, and their public service charges in West marks. This obligation holds true also in cases where household contains one family member who falls within category of persons named in paragraph 1.

Infractions will be punished by imprisonment and/or fines on basis of paragraph 7 of above-named ordinance (January 14, 1953) in accordance with regulations governing economic crimes.

END QUOTE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

REVIEWED BY *Koussou* DATE *8/14/61*

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-2- 143, August 4, 7 p.m., from Berlin

According to APN, Chairman of East Berlin Economic Council and Head of Department of Finance of East Berlin Magistrate will issue implementing ordinances and instructions after consultation with Soviet sector district councils.

Comment: New decree is logical follow-up of earlier press campaign publicizing "demands by factory workers" that such steps be taken to deprive border-crossers of supposedly unfair economic advantages they have been enjoying. Legislative enactment of measure would suggest that for present East regime does not intend to make employment of East Berliners in West Berlin illegal, but to make such employment economically less advantageous than has hitherto been case and thereby try to reduce number of border-crossers.

Senat official (Alberts) informs us Senat is considering increasing West percentage of border-crossers' take-home pay to make up for West mark payments required by new decree. Initial Senat reaction has been to term measure another gross violation of four-power status, one of purposes of which was to raise DM West earnings of Soviet Zone regime.

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